



SCHOOL BUS, INC.

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DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION "POINT OF CONTACT" **OCTOBER 2007 NEWSLETTER**

School Bus Safety week is October 22nd through the 26th

This is an excellent time to promote school bus safety. "Stop On Red, Kids Ahead" is the theme for this years School Bus safety Week. One thing we do to promote this week is to do one of the required evacuation drills. Keep in mind there are three evacuation drills required each year. Two are required for all students and a third is required for Headstart students. By Federal rule the first evacuation drill for Headstart students is required to be done with in the first thirty days of the start of the Headstart program.

DDN Training Schedule

Harlows will be offering training over the DDN on October 3rd, October 10th and October 24th. Sessions will run from 6pm to 10pm CST. Remember that all training is required to be finished by October 15th of each school year. Schools signed up to host a DDN session are:

10/03/07

1. Harding Co. (Jason 605-375-3241)
2. Flandreau (Jerry 605-997-2554)
3. Bison (Sharon 605-244-5271) High School Studio
4. Selby Area (Jeff 605-230-1172)
5. Castlewood High School DDN room – (Keith 605-793-2351)
6. Sully Buttes HS Onida DDN room (Kevin 605-278-2618)
7. Clark School - Dan 233-0010

DDN Training
DDN Training

10/10/07

1. Edgemont (Lane 605-662-7254)
2. Shannon Co. Wolf Creek School (Ann 605-288-1921)
3. Pierre Capitol Bldg. basement enter back door (Carol 773-4771)
4. Sisseton HS DDN Room Cheryl 605-698-7613 Ext. 100
- 5.
- 6.
- 7.
8. Clark School - Dan 233-0010

10/24/07

- 1.
- 2.
- 3.
- 4.
- 5.
- 6.
- 7.
8. Clark School – Dan 233-0010

If anyone would like to host a DDN session to get their required four hours of In-Service for School Bus Drivers this is your chance. You may call Donna at Harlow's in Webster @ 1-605-345-4023 to get registered. If you are sending a driver to one of these sites already listed make sure you let Donna know also. This is the only way we can get the right number of packets to the site you are attending.

CRS Report on Seat Belts on School Buses Released

The Congressional Research Service (CRS), the research arm of Congress, recently released a report on seat belts on school buses. The report largely summarizes the current debate on seat belts v. compartmentalization and lists four options for congressional action. Those options include:

- Status Quo
- Require Lap/Shoulder Belts on Large School Buses
- Encourage the Purchase of Large School Buses with Lap/Shoulder Belts
- Pursue Alternative Safety

Initiatives such as a grant program to encourage school districts to increase the percentage of students who travel to school by bus; improving the safety of vehicle pick-up and drop-off locations; and implementing graduated licensing for teenage drivers.

Final UCR Rule Includes School Buses

Late last month, FMCSA published the Final Rule on the fees for the Unified Carrier Registration Plan. As you remember, NSTA submitted comments requesting that school buses transporting students on an activity trip that begin or end at school be exempt, as they are currently exempt from the Single State Registration Program that UCR replaces. FMCSA rejected our argument, as follows:

The NSTA noted what it perceived to be a conflict between the possibility under the UCR Plan that private interstate school bus carriers that register with DOT and obtain a USDOT number will be required to pay the UCR fees in spite of the provisions of 49 U.S.C. 13506 that exempt such carriers from registration requirements for school bus carriers under the proposed Unified Registration System (URS).

For the purpose of the UCR agreement, the statutory definition of "motor carrier," as modified by [SAFETEA-LU] includes for-hire carriers that are otherwise exempt such as farmers, ranchers and school bus operators. This is the interpretation followed by the Board and FMCSA in recommending and setting the fees. The fees, which range from \$39 for fleets of one or two buses to \$37,500 for fleets of more than 1000, will go into effect when the Final Rule establishing the UCR system is issued. Congress recently set a deadline of October 1 for that to happen.

School Bus Re-calls

The following web site will give you a list of all the current school bus recalls. There are hundreds of re-calls out there so make sure your bus is not one of them.

<http://www.nhtsa.dot.gov/people/injury/buses/schoolbusrecalls.htm>

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